



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION

Submitted electronically

December 21, 2018

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary, Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

RE: NOTICE OF EX-PARTE - CG Docket No. 03-123 and CG Docket No. 13-24

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On December 19, Tim Nanof and Tricia Ashby, AuD representing the American Speech-Language Hearing Association ("ASHA") and Wayne Powell and I representing the American Academy of Audiology ("the Academy"), met jointly with Karen Peltz Strauss, Deputy Bureau Chief, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau ("CGB"), Eliot Greenwald, Deputy Chief Disability Rights Office ("DRO"), Michael Scott, DRO, CGB, and Bob Aldrich, CGB to follow up on the FCC's proposals related to authorization of IP CTS captioned telephones.

During this meeting, the group presented a comprehensive list of best practices that have been jointly developed. There was discussion on the importance of the audiologist's role in determining what the patient's desired outcome was as well as the important counseling role that audiologists play with many of their patients. Additionally, there were discussions over the overall time audiologists spend with their patients and the sorts of questioning that goes into determining what sorts of devices, technologies, or other modalities may be beneficial to the patient in treating their hearing loss.

AAA and ASHA explained that the best practices really help explain the audiologist's line of thought when they see a patient with hearing loss. In addition to their audiogram and recorded level of hearing loss, other considerations including but not limited to lifestyle, desired outcomes, and cognitive abilities play a significant role in determining whether an IP captioned telephone may be the correct device for a specific patient.

Moving forward, AAA and ASHA both expressed interest in the FCC helping to assist the audiology community once the new IP CTS regulations were finalized through a combination of webinars and in-person seminars at the annual conferences for the organizations.

Both ASHA and the Academy look forward to continuing our work with the FCC on this matter to ensure that our patients continue to have access to this important program.

ASHA and AAA look forward to reconnecting with the FCC in the New Year and please contact us directly if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

/s/

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cc: Tim Nanof, ASHA